

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording a duplicate of a product onto a recording medium, the product being a copyrighted digital product having a copy attribute embedded as a watermark thereon, comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire ~~means for acquiring~~ the copy attribute embedded on the product;

a changing unit operable to change ~~means for changing~~ the acquired copy attribute into a copy attribute showing no more copy when the acquired copy attribute shows one generation copy;

a reading unit operable to read ~~means for reading~~ from the recording medium at least a part of medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state; and

a recording unit operable to record ~~means for recording~~ onto the recording medium the duplicate that has both the copy attribute showing no more copy and the read part of medium ID information embedded as a watermark thereon.

2. (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is an optical disc and the part of medium ID information read by the reading unit ~~means~~ is information recorded on a burst cutting area of the optical disc.

3. (Original) The recording apparatus of claim 2, wherein the information recorded on the burst cutting area of the optical disc is a lot number assigned during a manufacture of the optical disc.

4. (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a storing unit operable to store ~~means for storing~~ one of (a) an area code of the recording apparatus, (b) an area code of a package media that recorded the product, and (c) an area code of a provider that supplied the product, wherein
the stored area code is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

5. (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a generating unit operable to generate ~~means for generating~~ reproduction quality information showing restrictions relating to a reproduction quality of the duplicate, wherein
the generated reproduction quality information is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

6. (Currently Amended) A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a duplicate of a product, the product being a copyrighted digital product, and the duplicate being recorded on a recording medium and having embedded as a watermark thereon both a copy attribute and at least a part of medium ID information relating to the recording medium, comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire ~~means for acquiring~~ the copy attribute embedded on the duplicate;

a reading unit operable to read ~~means for reading~~ from the recording medium when the copy attribute shows no more copy, at least a part of the medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state;

a comparing unit operable to judge ~~means for judging~~ whether the duplicate is legitimate by comparing the embedded part of medium ID information with the read part of medium ID information; and

a reproducing unit operable to reproduce ~~means for reproducing~~ the duplicate only when the comparing unit ~~means~~ judges that the duplicate is legitimate.

7. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 6, wherein the comparing unit ~~means~~ includes a first judging unit operable to judge ~~for judging~~ whether the embedded part of medium ID information matches the read part of medium ID information.

8. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 7, wherein one of (a) an area code of the recording apparatus, (b) an area code of a package media that recorded the product, and (c) an area code of a provider that supplied the product is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate,

the reproduction apparatus further comprises a storing unit operable to store ~~means for storing~~ an area code of the reproduction apparatus,

the comparing unit means includes a second judging unit operable to judge for judging whether the area code embedded on the duplicate matches the area code of the reproduction apparatus, and

the reproducing unit means reproduces the duplicate only when the first and second judging units both judge that there is a match.

9. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 7, wherein reproduction quality information, which shows restrictions relating to a reproduction quality of the duplicate, is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate, and

the reproducing unit means reproduces the duplicate in accordance with the restrictions shown in the embedded reproduction quality information only when the first judging unit judges that there is a match.

10. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 9, wherein the reproduction quality information includes sampling frequency information, and

the reproducing unit means restricts the reproduction quality of the duplicate by decoding, in accordance with the sampling frequency information, the duplicate read from the recording medium.

11. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 9, wherein the reproduction quality information includes quantization bit rate information, and the reproducing unit ~~means~~ restricts a reproduction sound quality of the duplicate by decoding, in accordance with the quantization bit rate information, the duplicate read from the recording medium.

12. (Currently Amended) The reproduction apparatus of claim 9, wherein the duplicate includes digital image data, the reproduction quality information includes either a scan line number or a pixel number, and the reproducing unit ~~means~~ restricts a reproduction image quality of the digital image data included in the duplicate by interpolating either the scan line number or the pixel number.

13. (Original) A recording medium having a duplicate of a product recorded thereon, the product being a copyrighted digital product, and the duplicate having embedded as a watermark thereon both a copy attribute and at least a part of medium ID information relating to the recording medium, wherein the medium ID information is recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state.

14. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is an optical disc, and the part of medium ID information read by ~~the~~ a reading unit means is information recorded on a burst cutting area of the optical disc.

15. (Original) The recording medium of claim 14, wherein the information recorded on the burst cutting area of the optical disc is a lot number assigned during a manufacture of the optical disc.

16. (Original) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein one of (a) an area code of the recording apparatus, (b) an area code of a package media that recorded the product, and (c) an area code of a provider that supplied the product is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

17. (Original) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein reproduction quality information, which shows restrictions relating to a reproduction quality of the duplicate, is embedded, together both with the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a program for instructing a computer to record a duplicate of a product onto a recording medium, the product

being a copyrighted digital product having a copy attribute embedded as a watermark thereon,
and the program instructing the computer to perform a method comprising:

~~an acquiring step for~~ acquiring the copy attribute embedded on the product;

~~a changing step for~~ changing the acquired copy attribute into a copy attribute showing no
more copy when the acquired copy attribute shows one generation copy;

~~a reading step for~~ reading from the recording medium at least a part of medium ID
information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state; and

~~a recording step for~~ recording onto the recording medium the duplicate that has both the
copy attribute showing no more copy and the read part of medium ID information embedded as a
watermark thereon.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the
recording medium is an optical disc, and the part of medium ID information read ~~by the~~ during
said reading step is information recorded on a burst cutting area of the optical disc.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the information
recorded on the burst cutting area of the optical disc is a lot number assigned during a
manufacture of the optical disc.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, the computer
comprising:

a storing unit operable to store ~~means for storing~~ one of (a) an area code of the recording apparatus, (b) an area code of a package media that recorded the product, and (c) an area code of a provider that supplied the product, wherein

the stored area code is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, the program further instructing the computer to perform a method comprising:

~~a generating step for~~ generating reproduction quality information showing restrictions relating to a reproduction quality of the duplicate, wherein

the generated reproduction quality information is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying a program for instructing a computer to record a duplicate of a product onto a recording medium, the product being a copyrighted digital product having a copy attribute embedded as a watermark thereon, and the program instructing the computer to perform a method comprising:

~~an acquiring step for~~ acquiring the copy attribute embedded on the duplicate;

~~a reading step for~~ reading from the recording medium when the copy attribute shows no more copy, at least a part of the medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state;

~~a comparing step~~ for judging whether the duplicate is legitimate by comparing the embedded part of medium ID information with the read part of medium ID information; and
~~a reproducing step~~ for reproducing the duplicate only when ~~the comparing step~~ said judging judges that the duplicate is legitimate.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein ~~the~~ said judging ~~comparing step~~ includes a first judging substep which judges ~~for judging~~ whether the embedded part of medium ID information matches the read part of medium ID information.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein one of (a) an area code of the recording apparatus, (b) an area code of a package media that recorded the product, and (c) an area code of a provider that supplied the product is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate,
the computer comprises ~~comprising a storing unit operable to store~~ means for storing an area code of the computer,

said judging ~~the comparing step~~ includes a second judging substep which judges ~~for judging~~ whether the area code embedded on the duplicate matches the area code of the computer, and

said ~~the reproducing step~~ reproduces the duplicate only when the first and second judging substeps both judge that there is a match.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein reproduction quality information, which shows restrictions relating to a reproduction quality of the duplicate, is embedded, together with both the copy attribute and the part of medium ID information, as a watermark on the duplicate, and

~~said the reproducing step~~ reproduces the duplicate in accordance with the restrictions shown in the embedded reproduction quality information only when the first judging substep judges that there is a match.

27. (Currently Amended) A recording method for recording a duplicate of a product onto a recording medium, the product being a copyrighted digital product having a copy attribute embedded as a watermark thereon, the method comprising including:

~~an acquiring step for~~ acquiring the copy attribute embedded on the product;

~~a changing step for~~ changing the acquired copy attribute into a copy attribute showing no more copy when the acquired copy attribute shows one generation copy;

~~a reading step for~~ reading from the recording medium at least a part of medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state; and

~~a recording step for~~ recording onto the recording medium the duplicate that has both the copy attribute showing no more copy and the read part of medium ID information embedded as a watermark thereon.

28. (Currently Amended) A reproduction method for reproducing a duplicate of a product, the product being a copyrighted digital product, and the duplicate being recorded on a recording medium and having embedded as a watermark thereon both a copy attribute and at least a part of medium ID information relating to the recording medium, the method comprising including:

~~an acquiring step for~~ acquiring the copy attribute embedded on the duplicate;

~~a reading step for~~ reading from the recording medium when the copy attribute shows no more copy, at least a part of medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state;

~~a comparing step for~~ judging whether the duplicate is legitimate by comparing the embedded part of medium ID information with the read part of medium ID information; and

~~a reproducing step for~~ reproducing the duplicate only when ~~the comparing step~~ said judging judges that the duplicate is legitimate.

29. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording a duplicate of a product onto a recording medium, the product being a copyrighted digital product having a copy attribute attached thereon, comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire ~~means for acquiring~~ the copy attribute embedded on the product;

a changing unit operable to change ~~means for changing~~ the acquired copy attribute into a copy attribute showing no more copy when the acquired copy attribute shows one generation copy;

a reading unit operable to read ~~means for reading~~ from the recording medium at least a part of medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state; and

a recording unit operable to record ~~means for recording~~ onto the recording medium the duplicate that has both the copy attribute showing no more copy and the read part of medium ID information embedded as a watermark thereon.

30. (Currently Amended) A reproduction apparatus for reproducing a duplicate of a product, the product being a copyrighted digital product, and the duplicate being recorded on a recording medium and having attached thereon both a copy attribute and at least a part of medium ID information relating to the recording medium, comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire ~~means for acquiring~~ the copy attribute embedded on the duplicate;

a reading unit operable to read ~~means for reading~~ from the recording medium when the copy attribute shows no more copy, at least a part of medium ID information recorded on the recording medium in an unalterable state;

a comparing unit operable to judge ~~means for judging~~ whether the duplicate is legitimate by comparing the embedded part of medium ID information with the read part of medium ID information; and

a reproducing unit operable to reproduce ~~means for reproducing~~ the duplicate only when the comparing unit ~~means~~ judges that the duplicate is legitimate.